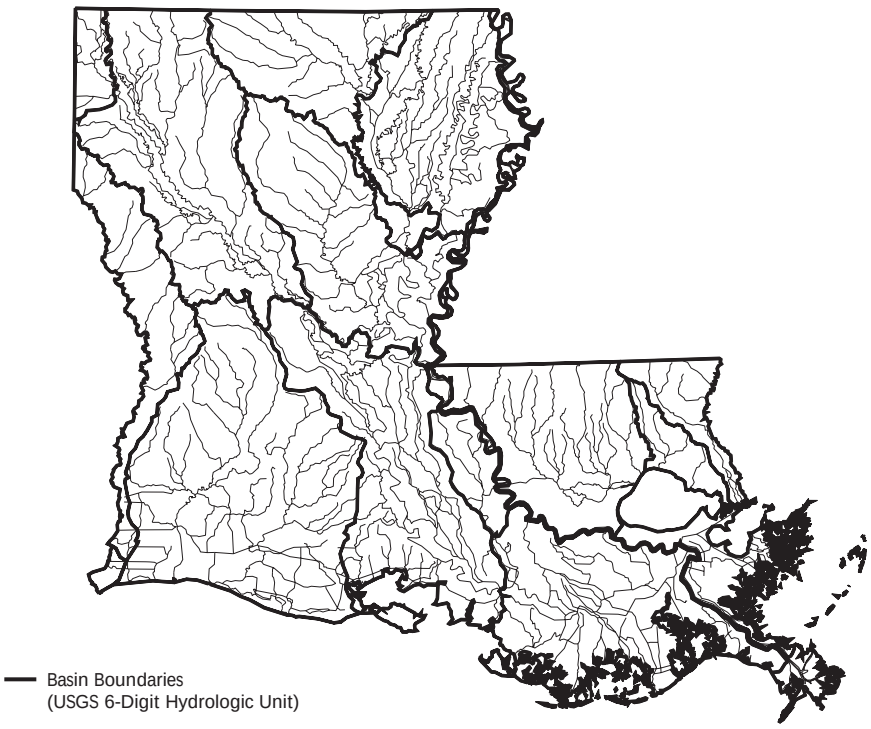
Louisiana



For a copy of the Louisiana 1996 305(b) report, contact:

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Surface Water Quality

About 71% of the surveyed stream miles, 27% of the surveyed lake acres, and 71% of the surveyed estuarine waters have good water quality that fully supports aquatic life. Fecal coliform bacteria continue to be the most common pollutant in Louisiana's rivers and streams, followed by low dissolved oxygen concentrations and nutrients. As a result of violation of fecal coliform bacteria standards, 37% of the surveyed river miles do not fully support swimming and other contact recreational activities. Thirty-one percent of the surveyed lake acres and 23% of the surveyed estuarine waters also do not fully support swimming. Sources of bacteria include sewage discharges from municipal treatment plants, subdivisions, trailer parks, and apartment complexes. Septic tanks, sewage/stormwater overflows, pastures, and rangeland also generate bacterial pollution. Agricultural runoff generates oxygen-depleting substances and nutrients.

In lakes, bacteria are the most common problem, followed by noxious aquatic plants, metals, dissolved oxygen, siltation, and nutrients. Leading pollutant sources include municipal point sources, septic tanks, and inflow and infiltration. In estuaries, nutrients and pathogen indicators replaced oil and grease as the most common pollutants. Nutrients and pathogens can derive from a number of sources including municipal point sources, pastureland and septic tanks, all of which ranked among the leading suspected sources of impairment.

Ground Water Quality

Water in the State's major aquifer systems remains of good quality. Of special concern, however, are the shallow aquifers and the water-bearing zones that are not used as major sources of water. These strata contribute significantly to the water balance of the deeper aquifers, but the shallow aquifers are increasingly threatened.

Programs to Restore Water Quality

Currently, most reductions in nonpoint source pollution result from cooperative demonstration projects due to a lack of regulatory authority in Louisiana to control nonpoint source pollution. These projects have demonstrated alternative rice farming management practices to reduce sediment and nutrients in the Mermentau River Basin, advocated lawn care management to reduce erosion and runoff in the Bayou Vermilion watershed, and reduced fecal coliform concentrations in the Tangipahoa River by implementing septic tank and dairy waste lagoon education programs and upgrading municipal wastewater treatment systems.

Programs to Assess Water Quality

The surface water monitoring program consists of a fixed-station monitoring network, intensive surveys, special studies, and wastewater discharge compliance sampling. The fixed network includes at least one long-term trend analysis station on the major stream in each basin of the State. The State positioned other fixed sampling sites to monitor targeted sources of pollution or waterbodies. Louisiana does not maintain a regular fish tissue sampling program.

– Not reported in a quantifiable format or unknown.
[a] A subset of Louisiana's designated uses appear in this figure. Refer to the State's 305(b) report for a full description of the State's uses.
[b] Includes nonperennial streams that dry up and do not flow all year.

Individual Use Support in Louisiana

Designated Use[a]		Percent				
		Good (Fully Supporting)	Good (Threatened)	Fair (Partially Supporting)	Poor (Not Supporting)	Poor (Not Attainable)
Rivers and Streams (Total Miles = 66,294)[b]						
	Total Miles Assessed	71	-	13	16	-
	15,624					
	-	-	-	-	-	-
	15,596	63	-	13	24	-
Lakes (Total Acres = 1,078,031)						
	Total Acres Assessed	27	-	40	33	-
	661,027					
	-	-	-	-	-	-
	661,028	69	-	29	2	-
Estuaries (Total Square Miles = 7,656)						
	Total Square Miles Assessed	71	-	28	2	-
	4,944					
	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-
	4,945	77	-	23	0	-

Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.